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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/080,811	02/21/2002	Matthew K. Meeker	CLX022 US	9898

34036 7590 03/27/2003

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EXAMINER

CRANSON JR, JAMES W

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2875

DATE MAILED: 03/27/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/080,811

Applicant(s)

MEEKER, MATTHEW K.

Examiner

James W Cranson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 January 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7-9 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-6 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 5,130,897 to Kuzma in view of USPN 5,053,928 to Pasco
2. Regarding claim 1, Kuzma discloses a faceplate indicating operation status of an apparatus comprising a bezel (10) and a light pipe (20). Kuzma does not have the light pipe and bezel integrated into one piece. Pasco teaches having the light guide and bezel integrated into one piece. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide Kuzma with a light guide and bezel integrated into one piece as taught by Pasco to reduce the number of parts required for assembly.
3. Regarding claim 2, wherein faceplate is optically clear plastic, Kuzma discloses (column 4, lines 35-37) a clear, optical clarity material.
4. Regarding claim 3, Kuzma has a translucent plastic material and does not have acrylic. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide Kuzma acrylic as taught by Pasco because it is a well known plastic.

5. Regarding claim 4, wherein faceplate is injection molded or cast, Kuzma does not have an injection- molded or cast faceplate. Pasco teaches having faceplate formed by injection molding (column 3, lines 33-37). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide Kuzma injection molded faceplate as taught by Pasco to reduce the number of parts required for assembly.

6. Regarding claims 5 and 6, wherein light pipe comprises lens and light guide, lens focuses light toward light guide, within a boundary of a light guide. Kuzma does not disclose a lens, Pasco teaches using a lens shaped (7) to focus light toward a light guide and within a boundary of a light guide (column 3, lines 63-68). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide Kuzma with lens means as taught by Pasco to collimate the majority of light into the light guide for improved effectiveness.

7. Regarding claim 10, Kuzma does not disclose a plurality of light pipes, Pasco teaches using a plurality of light pipes (column 3, lines 58-62) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide Kuzma with a plurality of light pipes as taught by Pasco to allow more light to be illuminated.

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Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 7-9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims because claim seven includes the limitation that a surface of the light guide of claim five comprises a plurality of lenses to promote diffusion of light and said limitation is not taught or disclosed in the prior art.

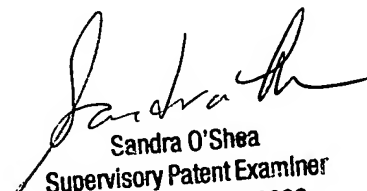
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James W Cranson whose telephone number is 703-305-5514. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30A.M.- 5:00P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandy O'Shea can be reached on 703-305-4939. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9318 for regular communications and 703-872-9319 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-4900.



March 19, 2003



Sandra O'Shea
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800

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